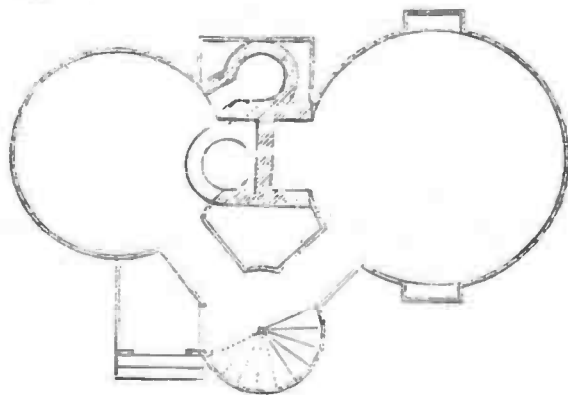
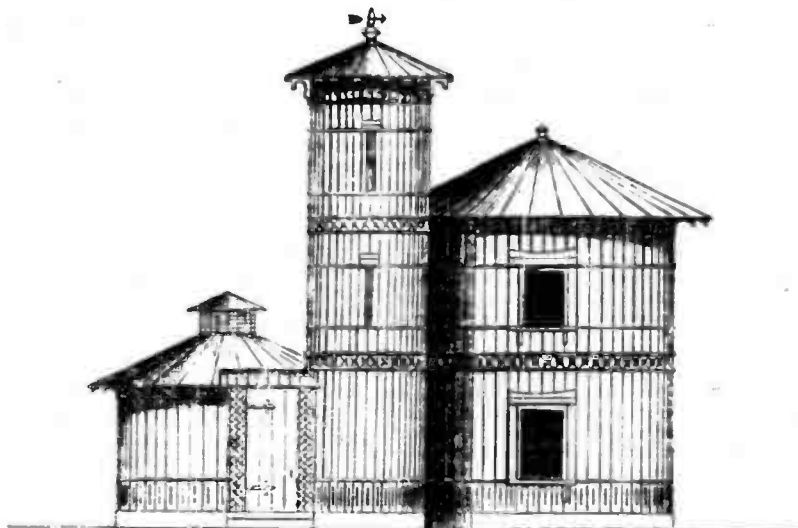


TUB HOUSES. PLAN AND ELEVATION.



TUB HOUSES.

A PATENT has been granted to Mr. George Tate for the construction of houses and other buildings by fitting together staves, or other pieces of timber, secured together by hoops or binders, and fixed by any suitable method practised by builders, either vertically or horizontally, at any height, upon piles, sleepers, or frames, securely fastened in the ground; the joints of the pieces or staves, when necessary, being bevelled as required, and wrought either plane or rounded, and hollowed or dovetailed, or tongued and grooved, or glued up or caulked, or merely drawn close together by the hoops. In the construction of buildings of greater height than the length of the staves or pieces employed, the horizontal jointings are to be made to break joint with each other. Such houses, he says, may be formed one within the other, so as to leave spaces between.

The floors, roofs, and partitions are to be formed on the same principle as the shell part of the building, that is, by tightly wedging up staves or pieces of timber, or other material of short lengths, according to the depth of the floor, roof, &c., in concentric rows, within an external hoop or other binder, and running the interstices solid with glue or other viscous and siccative matter, mixed or not with earthy or mineral matter.

The pieces may be dyed, or stained, or moulded, so as to form patterns; and to be trennailed or fastened together if necessary. The walls, whether internal or external, the inventor states, may be ornamented by the crystals of salts being deposited in the usual way on glass, and then fastened to the walls by applying glue or cement at the back.

The annexed engraving exhibits a dwelling

complete, constructed according to this invention. The hoops or fasteners, he says, should be so arranged as not to interfere with the openings required, such as doors and windows, and the staves or pieces and hoops may be painted or otherwise preserved from decay.

We have given these particulars for the novelty of the thing. The patentee sets forth that the object of his invention is to afford the working classes "cheaper and better accommodation than heretofore," and doubtless he is able to point to circumstances under which the proposed arrangement would be found useful. For our own part, however, we have no desire to see the exclusive right of dwelling in a tub, long possessed by Diogenes, interfered with, and would rather aid in obtaining for the working classes habitations of a more durable and less combustible character. A joker at our elbow suggests that the proper inscription for such a structure (built literally to "stave off" the weather) would be, "This is a house, all Butt."

STEAM-ENGINE IMPROVEMENTS.—Mr. J. Hick, of Holton-le-Moors, engineer, has just patented some improvements in steam-boilers or generators, which consist in the arrangement of two boilers, end to end, with an intermediate space or gas chamber, two of the sides of which are formed by the ends of the two boilers, while the other sides are constructed or lined with brick or some other slow conductor of heat. Mr. Hick claims the arrangement of two or more steam-boilers or generators with a gas-chamber formed or lined, and situated as described, for effecting a more perfect combustion of the products of the fuel.

OPENING OF THE VICTORIA TOWER, WESTMINSTER.

ON Tuesday, February 3, Queen Victoria, for the first time, entered the New Palace of Westminster by way of the Victoria Tower. In the evening the line from Old Palace Yard to the Great Tower presented a very gay and imposing appearance, especially from the new entrance called St. Stephen's Porch, southward, the whole of the new buildings being brilliantly illuminated, including the large storied window at the end of Westminster Hall (or, more properly, which flanks St. Stephen's Porch), and the Great *Porte Cochère*, formed by the Victoria Tower, in each corner of which was a lofty standard gas light enclosed in a lantern. The lights outside the windows of the House of Lords were, of course, in use, converting the rich stained-glass windows into transparencies—a novel and happy idea, which we have every reason to believe was first proposed in our pages. In reply to some inquirers: so far as we know, the Tower is intended to be continued of its present plan, square, with octagonal angle turrets, to the top. The ultimate design of the upper part is not yet fully determined. The present height we believe to be about 160 feet from the ground.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS' PRIZE COLOUR BOX AND CASE OF INSTRUMENTS.

THERE has been a strong competition, it appears, amongst British and foreign colourmen and instrument makers for the prizes offered by the Society of Arts, and the consequent profits of the sale to the public of the selected articles. The quality of the articles in general is really surprising, considering the prices. The committee, however, had to guard against the motives, in some cases, to the production of such excellence, inasmuch as the award of the prize might mainly be striven for as an advertisement to forward the general interests of the manufacturer, without much practical or permanent benefit to the public. The Society, however, will enter into stringent arrangements with the successful candidates for the unlimited public supply of articles fully up to the mark of the prize specimen. They have not yet decided on the successful candidate for their approbation in the manufacture and sale of instruments; but that the offer of a prize in the circumstances will lead to the adoption of sets of instruments of remarkable cheapness, the display on the Society's tables sufficiently assures us. The committee may be said to have decided as to the colour-box, having chosen Mr. Rodgers as the recipient of the silver medal offered for the best that can be made for one shilling; but the award is not yet published, as the committee have remitted the prize specimen to Mr. Rodgers for some minor modifications.

Notices of Books.

A New Gazetteer or Topographical Dictionary of the British Islands and Narrow Seas, comprising concise descriptions of about sixty thousand places, seats, natural features, and objects of note, founded upon the best authorities; full particulars of the boundaries, registered electors, &c. of the parliamentary boroughs; with a reference under every name to the Sheet of the Ordnance Survey as far as completed, and an Appendix, &c. By JAMES A. SHARP, Esq. Part I. Also complete in Two Vols. London: Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans. 1852.

THE main objects of this work appear to have been to include as many headings as possible, with a small type and numerous abbreviations, in a compass as small as possible. To these very useful objects everything else is sacrificed,—perhaps, in these days of railway ramifications, and of local guides and other topographical and geographical publications, very properly so. A gazetteer may now very fairly be limited in its uses to mere reference, as an indicial skeleton to all that is most practically useful or interesting as to any one locality; and to this end we may say that we have never seen anything like this new work, although